



**CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
500 Mill Road
Absecon, New Jersey 08201**

**MAY 15, 2014
COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Seher at 7:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE

INVOCATION – Barbara Sabath, Lay Leader – Absecon United Methodist Church

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Vizthum, Camp, Horton, Cain, Phillips, Ring, Seher

ABSENT: Mayor Armstrong

ALSO PRESENT: City Administrator, Tom Henshaw; CFO, Jessica Thompson; City Clerk, Carie Crone

**PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW
NOTIFICATION OF MEETING**

PRESENTATION – Barbara Sabath – spoke about a program called Family Promise of Atlantic County. It's a ministry program that helps homeless children and their families. There are 182 affiliates throughout the country. She explained how the program works. They do fundraising but they looking for support from people and churches and if anyone wants needs info they should call her at 646-3271.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor. No public comment

Motion to close public – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor.

REPORTS

Councilwoman Cain – Public Works – met today and there will be a pre-construction meeting for the 2013 road project on 6/4 and they should start the work within 2 weeks. The 2014 road program surfacing is on a state contract so that should be able to be started in June. The spring leaf collection schedule will be reworked on next year in April. They had 40 yards of clamshells spread out along the bulkhead to clean up the area. Will be getting estimates for the tennis court repairs. Next meeting will be 6/19 @ 3:30 p.m.

Council President Seher – the Mayor, Administrator and the head of Public Works have been discussing standard operating procedures for any emergencies, downed signs, traffic signals and what would happen during normal working hours and non-working hours. Protocols should be in place.

Councilman Vizthum – Public Safety – the crosswalk at Pitney and the entrance to the school has been looked at it's recommended that the city move forward even if we put up the 25%. Linwood and Northfield have similar cross walks. The traffic light at Rt. 30 and Turner Ave. was also discussed. The fire dept. reported that 4 hydrants are being pressure tested for the next few weeks. One of the fire inspectors has resigned and a replacement will be needed. The new CEO of the EMS dept., Mr. Bruner has started and will come to the next meeting. We've added some security cameras so dispatch needs some items purchased in order to view all of them. We hope we can get it done in this year's budget. The access road behind McDonald's was brought up and the road along the train. It's overgrown and in the past we forced the State to maintain it, but it needs to be looked into again. The prescription drug give back program was the highest in the County.

Police Chief Risley – announced he was in DC on Tuesday and Wednesday to represent our two officers who received National awards. It's a great honor for our department.

Councilman Phillips – Parks & Playground – second reading of Ord. #5-14 is on the agenda tonight. The concerts in the park start on 6/15. His next meeting is 5/20.

Council President Seher - United Way is sponsoring a learning trail for children 6 and under. We would provide space for their volunteers to do the installation at their cost. All agreed it would be a good thing so Frank will be discussing it at the next Parks and Playground meeting.

Councilman Camp – Finance – met tonight and they are recommending a 2% raise for the non-union employees.

Attorney, Tim Maguire – a resolution should be done and it should be reflected in any modified salary ordinance. It was decided to have a resolution for the next meeting.

Councilman Camp – We are looking into a loader for Public Works and see what kind of numbers we get and possibly go out for bid. He talked to Lloyd about iron in the water at the public works yard and they are looking at ways to control it. They gave some good arguments on the generator for Public Works so we will be looking into it.

Councilman Ring – Community Affairs – Green Fest sponsored by Absecon and Galloway is Sat. at Patriot Lake in Galloway; the Memorial Day Parade will be 5/26; city-wide yard sale is 6/7; 6/14 is Hooked on Fishing at Heritage Park – he explained Res. #106 and 108 – next mtg is 6/5 @ 6 p.m.

Councilman Phillips – announced Pete Higbee will be honored as Citizen of the Year on 6/11 and if anyone is interested in going they should contact 645-3800 by 6/4.

Councilwoman Horton – Economic Development – next meeting is 6/5. Encouraged residents to buy locally when they can and support the local businesses.

Attorney, Tim Maguire – explained Res. #110 – it's a housekeeping issue. There has been a transfer of ownership and the bank is taking back ownership of that property pursuant to the Developer's Agreement. It will allow the Mayor to acknowledge that there was a change in developers and that we agree to it. The bank is the new developer and will be called 1 Mechanic St. LLC. Either they will move forward with it or contract a new developer to finish the project.

Rick DeLucry – attorney for Boardwalk Development & Design Co., LLC – Parke Bank and Boardwalk are talking and should be reaching an agreement soon, but we are asking council to help make that happen with this resolution tonight, because their approval will be needed for any deal that is made.

Rob Reid, Planning Board planner – explained Ord. #2-14. This came out of our joint meeting that was held in December and part of the agreement with a developer regarding our affordable housing obligation. It's part of the Master Plan and Fair Share Plan as well. He explained the difference in the zoning and details of the property.

Administrator, Tom Henshaw – the bus shelter on Rt. 9 and NJ Ave. has been replaced and the city's insurance paid for most of it. Two others will be replaced at the State's cost, but they are then our responsibility for upkeep. He is working on an Ordinance amendment for the hotel/motel

registration with a timetable on holding information on file. The police chief had asked him to look into this. He is also working on a towing ordinance for charging administrative fees for our police dept. since we do a lot of work when it comes to towing. Other communities also charge a fee for their work. As of now, we receive no money from the towing of vehicles. He is also working on amending the fire safety ordinance also. There is an 18-month inspection required now, but the fire inspector would like it to be 12 months because of a life hazard issues that should be checked yearly. Res. #107, one that we do yearly, covers our boat ramp monitor. Res. #109 and 111 are recommendations for release of monies.

Jessica Thompson, CFO – carpet for City Hall has been ordered and two windowpanes in skylights will be replaced.

MONTHLY REPORTS for APRIL – Carie Crone

Municipal Court for April - \$11,082.86

Construction - \$5,049

Tax Collection - \$2,264,099.83

Council President Seher – he attended the 2½ - hour joint public meeting with the school board and he thought it was a great meeting. A lot of issues were covered like administrative staff and a lot of data was reviewed from the State and comparisons were made with other towns our size. All of this will be on the school website shortly. The 2014/2015 Budget was discussed and the minimal impact they have on the tax increase. They received a lower rate on the bond than proposed in April for voting. They discussed the solar fields; enrollment; expenditures for free and reduced lunches; the high school options for students and those costs; and the capacity of the school for the future developments that are required for our COAH obligations. The school superintendent, Jim Giaquinto is retiring at the end of this school year. He will stay through the summer until 9/1 and they are searching for a replacement now.

Discussion on our sign ordinance was held and possible changes to the ordinance. Complaints have been made about freedom of speech and our rules.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor.

Rob Reid – 366 Upland Ave. – President of Historical Society – explained the NJ Transit right-of-way and what they own. He agrees that it is a mess back there and a lot of trash is there.

Jim – we have to make sure it's not ours yet before we ask them to clean it up. It had been discussed in the past that they wanted to turn it over to the City.

Motion to close public – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

All were in favor.

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

2014 ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING AND FINAL ADOPTION

02 Amending Chapter 224 (Land Use and Development) of the Absecon City Code to provide for the design of an Inclusionary Village Development Zone and to provide for the regulation of development therein.

Motion for second reading – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilwoman Cain

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

Motion to open to the public for comment - Councilman Ring - second - Councilwoman Cain

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close the public portion – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Phillips

All were in favor.

Councilman Ring – questioned the number of children that would be attending our school

Rob Reid – explained the capacity of the school for future students and he thinks it won't be an issue.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Camp

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

05 Authorizing Criminal History Record Background Checks for Employees and Volunteers involved with City Programs or Services that can/will have contact with minors.

Motion for second reading – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Phillips

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

Motion to open to the public for comment - Councilman Camp - second - Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close the public portion – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Ring

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Vizthum

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

CONSENT AGENDA

- 106** Granting 50-50 Licenses to the Charles A. Hammell American Legion Post #28 for the Concerts in the Park.
- 107** Re-Appointing a Part-Time Boat Ramp Monitor, namely James Smith.
- 108** Allowing for the Absecon Education Foundation's annual City-Wide Yard Sale.
- 109** Authorizing the release of a Performance Guarantee posted by Dunkin Donuts and accepting the posting of an approved Maintenance Guaranty.
- 110** Authorizing the Mayor to provide written consent to the transfer of ownership of Block 161, Lot 1 known as "Absecon Gardens" from PB Pinnacle Club, LLC and Boardwalk Development Design Company, LLC as Co-Developers, to One Mechanic Street, LLC.
- 111** Authorizing the release of escrow posted by Mike Martin.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$2,390,718.61

Motion to approve – Councilman Camp – second – Councilwoman Horton

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 5/1/14

Closed Session as to form and content only – 5/1/2014

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Vizthum, yes; Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Cain, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, abstain; Seher, yes

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Camp

All were in favor. No public comment.

Motion to close public – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Phillips

All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn meeting – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

All were in favor.

Respectfully,


Carrie Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 6/5/14